GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:403
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
REGULARISATION OF ENCROACHMENTS ON FOREST LAND
RAMESH CHAND TOMAR;RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to regularise encroachments on forest land using 1980 as the baseline;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the total area of forest land under encroachment in the country, State-wise;

(c) the details of encroachers with dates of such encroachments upon such forest land;

(d) whether the Union Government are aware of a policy of systematic regularisation of encroachment of forest land both in rural and urban areas of the country as adopted by some States like Himachal Pradesh;

(e) if so the details of such regularisation during the last three years and thereafter indicating the reduction in forest area, State-wise; and

(f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 4(SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY AND DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR REGARDING "REGULARISATIOI ENCROACHMENTS ON FOREST LAND" FOR REPLY ON 12-08-2002.

(a) to (c) The National Forest Policy, 1988 stipulates that the encroachments on forest land should not be regularized. The rules and guidelines made under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, provides for regularisation of pre-1980 subsistence encroachments on forest lands, in respect of which a decision to regularise had already been taken by the State Governments prior to Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 coming into effect, i.e. 25.10.1980, but the decision could not be implemented either wholly or partially before the said date.

The details of area of encroachments on forest lands as reported by the State Governments are given in the Annexure. The area encroached by the individual encroachers, name of encroacher and date of encroachment are not compiled and collated by the Central Government.

(d) to (f) A news-item has appeared in a national daily stating that the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has decided to regularise over three lakh encroachments in the State and that all those encroachments that took place before December 31, 2000, will be regularised. The State Government has been advised not to go ahead with any plan which violates the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the orders of the Supreme Court dated: 23.11.2001 restraining Government from regularization of any encroachment on forest land.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK S STARRED QUESTION NO. 403 BY SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY AND DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR REGA "REGULARISATION OF ENCROACHMENTS ON FOREST LAND" DUE FOR REPLY ON 12-08-2002.

Sl. No.	Name of State	Area underEncroachmentin sq.km.
I	II	III
1	Andhra Pradesh	3413.22
2	Arunachal Pradesh	40.38

3	Assam	2547.11
4	Bihar	21.77
5	Chhattisgarh	1504.95
6	Goa	10.12
7	Gujarat	54.84
8	Haryana	8.52
9	Himachal Pradesh	14.93
10	J & K	154.06
11	Jharkhand	339.05
12	Karnataka	1.10
13	Kerala	459.70
14	Madhya Pradesh	728.11
15	Maharashtra	936.10
16	Manipur	0.003
17	Meghalaya	154.64
18	Mizoram	0.13
19	Nagaland	0.00
20	Orissa	756.96
21	Punjab	44.09
22	Rajasthan	175.84
23	Sikkim	120.00
24	Tamilnadu	182.83
25	Tripura	419.27
26	Uttaranchal	104.00
27	Uttar Pradesh	252.10
28	West Bengal	NA

Total	12443.82